

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY - RECOMMENDATION

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)

Subregion: EAST **County:** MONO
Applicant: MAMMOTH LAKES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Project Title: OLD MAMMOTH AND MILL CITY FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT
Application Number: SNC 070346

PROJECT SCOPE

The Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District (MLFPD) will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and protect the community, water quality, and recreation values by improving fire resiliency through vegetation treatments on 57 acres of public land within and adjacent to the community of Mammoth Lakes in Mono County. This project will protect the watershed and municipal water and wastewater systems, wildlife habitat, residences, a preserve owned by the University of California, Santa Barbara, and recreation infrastructure, from the threat of wildfire. The area to be treated is rated high fire risk in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Specifically, the project actions will include:

- Implementing fuels reduction treatments including hand thinning and brush mastication
- Organizing community workdays to assist landowners with slash chipping and removal
- Establishing photo points and taking pre and post treatment photos of exemplary project sites to include in final report

In-kind and financial support of \$93,071 has been provided by the Inyo National Forest, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mono County, and the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends funding this project at the requested amount of \$99,999.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

- Town of Mammoth Lakes
- Mono County Administrative Officer
- Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation
- Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Purchase equipment and hire seasonal work crews	July 2008
Take pre and post treatment photos to include in final report	July 2008 October 2009
Develop contracts for projects on Inyo National Forest land	July 2008
Organize two community workdays and assist landowners with slash chipping and removal	July – October 2008 June – October 2009
Implement fuels reduction treatments on Town of Mammoth property and UCSB Reserve	July – October 2008 June – October 2009
Award contracts and implement fuels reduction treatments on Inyo National Forest lands	August – October 2008 June – October 2009
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	January 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	July 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	December 2009

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Cal Fire Crew -salaries	\$17,600
MLFPD Seasonal Crew -salaries	35,899
Equipment (skidders, chainsaws, portion of pick-up truck purchase)	46,500
GRAND TOTAL	\$99,999

2. Project Summary

The project was originally applied for as a competitive grant and is now being reformatted as a Strategic Opportunity Grant. This project will perform significant and substantial fuels reduction treatments within and adjacent to the community of Mammoth Lakes, CA through a cooperative effort with the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District (MLFPD), Mammoth Lakes Community Water District, Inyo National Forest, Mono County, Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Lakes Trails - Public Access, and University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) Valentine Reserve. The project would occur within private lands and Town of Mammoth Lakes property within the town of Mammoth Lakes and on adjacent National Forest lands within Wildland Urban Intermix defense zone. This project is related to a similar SOG Grant request by the Inyo National Forest. This project is strategically located within an area that is high priority for treatment due to the dense vegetative conditions, terrain, prevailing wind patterns, and the proximity to a popular recreation area. Forests in this area were historically subject to frequent, low intensity fires that resulted in open fire-resistant stands of trees. The lack of fire has resulted in a change in species composition, structure, and density, and has allowed dense vegetation and surface fuels to accumulate. The dense forest conditions within the project area make the area prone to the risk of a stand-replacing catastrophic wildfire. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) community hazard rating for this area is Extreme. This action is intended to decrease wildfire spread and intensity to protect the community and increase safety of residents and firefighters, as well as to enhance forest health and protect watershed resources, including water quality, wildlife habitat, scenic quality, and heritage resources, each of which are important components to maintaining and enhancing recreational opportunities in this popular year-round recreation area.

The fuels reduction work would include:

- Perform site inspections and provide guidance to private landowners for creating Defensible space around homes, improvements, and within undeveloped parcels by reducing flammable vegetation. Property owners would perform the work on their properties and the MLFPD fuels management crew would assist property owners with slash disposal. The slash would be chipped and scattered or hauled offsite. Approximately 350 acres, including over 800 parcels of land.
- Perform fuels reduction treatments on approximately 22 acres of National Forest lands adjacent to the community of Mammoth Lakes, including a combination of understory thinning, or mastication of trees (standing live and dead trees) and brush, and slash disposal through chipping, hauling the material off-site, or pile burning. The work would be completed primarily using Cal-Fire Crews in cooperation with MLFD seasonal firefighters. This will assist private property owners in obtaining the required and recommended defensible space.
- Perform fuels reduction treatments on approximately 10 acres of Town of Mammoth Lakes and Fire Protection District lands within the community of Mammoth Lakes and approximately 5 acres within the Valentine Reserve (UCSB). Trees and brush would be thinned by hand and slash would be chipped and scattered or hauled off site.

The total project cost, including planning and implementation is approximately **\$193,070**. The grant request is for **\$99,999** which would include funding for